

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2264

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Veterans Health Administration the position of Advisor on Physician Assistants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2000

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mrs. HUTCHISON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Veterans Health Administration the position of Advisor on Physician Assistants, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Recognition of Physi-
5 cian Assistants in the Department of Veterans Affairs Act
6 of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION OF ADVISOR ON**
2 **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS WITHIN OFFICE OF**
3 **UNDERSECRETARY FOR HEALTH.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subsection (a) of section
5 7306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-
7 graph (10); and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
9 lowing new paragraph (9):

10 “(9) The Advisor on Physician Assistants, who
11 shall carry out the responsibilities set forth in sub-
12 section (f).”.

13 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—That section is further
14 amended—

15 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
16 section (g); and

17 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
18 lowing new subsection (f):

19 “(f) The Advisor on Physician Assistants under sub-
20 section (a)(9) shall—

21 “(1) advise the Under Secretary for Health on
22 matters regarding the optimal utilization of physi-
23 cian assistants by the Veterans Health Administra-
24 tion;

25 “(2) advise the Under Secretary for Health on
26 the feasibility and desirability of establishing clinical

1 privileges and practice areas for physician assistants
2 in the Administration;

3 “(3) develop initiatives to facilitate the utiliza-
4 tion of the full range of clinical capabilities of the
5 physician assistants employed by the Administration;

6 “(4) provide advice on policies affecting the em-
7 ployment of physician assistants by the Administra-
8 tion, including policies on educational requirements,
9 national certification, recruitment and retention,
10 staff development, and the availability of educational
11 assistance (including scholarship, tuition reimburse-
12 ment, and loan repayment assistance); and

13 “(5) carry out such other responsibilities as the
14 Under Secretary for Health shall specify.”.

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